



# CLASSIFIED TELEGRAM

CONTROL NUMBER

THE FOREIGN SERVICE OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

10498

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SECURITY INFORMATION

ROUTINE

PRECEDENCE

P & B

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THIS IS OUR REGULAR POLITICAL WEEKLY. REGARDING IT, WE ANSWER YOUR TELEGRAM 40 OF JANUARY 20, 1953.

THE FOLLOWING "TEMPER" IS PRELIMINARY AND SHOULD NOT BE CONSIDERED AS DEFINITIVE FOR THIS AREA.

WHILE WIDE PUBLICITY HAS BEEN GIVEN TO BOTH ARRESTS BY BRITISH AND TO HICOG PUBLIC OPINION POLL, GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS AND PARTY LEADERS HAVE FOR MOST PART, NOT EXPRESSED STRONG OPINIONS:

REACTION SO FAR FROM THOSE PERSONS WE HAVE CONTACTED HAS BEEN MAINLY THAT THEY WONDER IF BOTH EVENTS MAY NOT PRESAGE IMMINENT REVIEW GERMAN POLICY BY UNITED STATES AND GREAT BRITAIN. WE WOULD HAZARD GUESS THAT COUPLED WITH THIS IS HIDDEN FEAR SOME GERMANS BELIEVE THAT IMPORTANCE OF GERMANY TO ALLIES WHILE GREAT, MAY HAVE BEEN OVERESTIMATED BY GERMAN LEADERS AND THAT UNITED STATES AND GREAT BRITAIN MAY BE CONSIDERING RADICAL DEPARTURE FROM PRESENT POLICIES. SEVERAL SOURCES HAVE EXPRESSED CONCERN THAT UNITED STATES MIGHT WITHDRAW TROOPS FROM GERMANY OR AT LEAST ACROSS RHINE; THIS ACTION THEY FEEL WOULD BE FRAUGHT WITH PERIL FOR GERMAN DEMOCRACY WHICH COULD THEN BE ATTACKED FROM LEFT AND RIGHT.

ASIDE FROM FDP NO PARTY HAS AS YET OFFICIALLY COMMENTED ON EITHER EVENT, ALTHOUGH MAIER DID SAY AT JANUARY 19 NEWS CONFERENCE HERE HE WAS NOT SURPRISED AT ARRESTS SINCE HE HAD RECEIVED ADVANCED INFORMATION ON THEM.

CDU HAS MADE NO PUBLIC STATEMENT THUS FAR, EXCEPT TO EXPRESS HURT SURPRISE THAT THEY ARE TREATED SO ROUGHLY BY THE ALLIES WITH WHOM THEY HAVE BEEN WORKING SO CLOSELY. DR. MAURER SECRETARY OF CDU BUNDESTAG DEPUTY GERSTENMAIER;

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HOWEVER TOLD US GERSTENMAIER FOUND HICOG REPORT EXAGGERATED AND WITHOUT SOLID FOUNDATION. BOTH HE AND BARTOMELY, SECRETARY OF CDU JUNGE UNION, INTIMATED TO US THE WHOLE STORY IS A PLOT BY BRITISH AND FRENCH INTERESTS TO PUT GERMANY IN BAD LIGHT FOR RECEIVING FURTHER DOLLAR AID.

SPD QUARTERS ON OTHER HAND, WHILE NOT WISHING TO APPEAR ANTI-GERMAN EXPRESSED TO US OPINION THAT NEITHER POLL NOR ARRESTS HAVE ANYTHING SPD HAS NOT KNOWN FOR SOMETIME. DENKER, STATE SECRETARY SPD, TOLD US THIS AND SAID HE DID NOT BELIEVE EITHER ARRESTS OR RESULTS OF POLL WOULD HAVE FAR REACHING REPERCUSSIONS. SAID PRESS AND POLITICIANS WOULD TALK A GREAT DEAL FOR NEXT FEW DAYS BUT THAT HE THEN EXPECTS WHOLE THING TO DIE DOWN. DENKER FELT TWO STRONGEST FORCES WORKING FOR DEMOCRACY IN GERMANY TODAY ARE SOCIAL DEMOCRATS AND PRESENCE OF AMERICAN TROOPS IN COUNTRY, WITHOUT WHICH DEMOCRATIC FORCES WOULD HAVE LONG SINCE BEEN DEVoured BY ENEMIES ON BOTH RIGHT AND LEFT. PUBLISHERS DR. ERICH-IRER AND JOSEF EVERLE OF STUTTGARTER ZEITUNG, MUCH TO OUR SURPRISE, EXPRESSED SIMILAR VIEWS IN INTERVIEW WITH CONSULAR OFFICER ON JANUARY 19.

WE WILL EXPAND FURTHER WHEN WE HAVE HAD MORE REACTIONS.

CDU ATTACKED MAIER AND PFLEIDERER FOR GRUNBACH SPEECHES. OFFICIAL PARTY PRESS RELEASE DECLARED THAT MAIER IS ATTEMPTING SABOTAGE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT FOR POLICY IN ORDER TO REMAIN IN POWER. OF PFLEIDERER, DECLARATIONS SAID "FOREIGN POLICY" HAS SELDOM BEFORE BEEN MADE WITH SUCH NAIVETY AND IGNORANCE. GERHARD TUELLER SPEAKING IN TUEBINGEN JANUARY 19, CHARGED STUTTGART COALITION WITH OBSTRUCTING FEDERAL GOVERNMENT FOR POLICY AND MAKING A CLEAR STAND BY FEDERAL GOVERNMENT IMPOSSIBLE. URGED QUICK RATIFICATION CONTRACTUALS BEFORE WESTERN ALLIES CAME TO ANOTHER UNDERSTANDING, WHICH MIGHT BE PREJUDICIAL TO GERMAN INTERESTS.

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